

An Exact and Perfect Relation
Of the Arrival of the Ship the
JAMES and MARY
Captain PHIPPS Commander,

With 200000 *l.* in *Gold* and *Silver*, taken up in
nine Fathom Water from the bottom of the Sea, being a
suppos'd Wreck of a *Spanish* Galion, Cast-away above 43
years ago among the *Bahama* Islands, as it was taken from the
aforesaid Captain, now riding in *Graves-end* Road.

MAny have been the Attempts to discover the hidden Treasure of
the Ocean, which by some, is Judg'd to equalize that of the
Earth, but few have succeeded in this design, till the industri-
ous Captain *William Phipps*, a Native of *New-England*, bent
his Study and Resolution to bring that Art to so great a Perfection, as to
anticipate Fame, and without such visible Demonstration, as he hath affor-
ded us, to surmount belief it self; For certainly to tell Mankind of taking
up the *Cargo* of above 40 years Wreck in full Sea 17 Leagues from any
Shoar in nine *Fathom Water*, would be thought to banter the Age, and turn
the same to ridicule. But there having been such a wonderful Instance,
which will fill our Pockets with Coyn, as well as our Ears with astonish-
ment, I shall relate the particulars, (*viz.*)

The said Captain *Phipps* having for some years pursu'd the Art of
weighing of Wrecks, and not without considerable progress; and having
good information of a *Spanish* Galion, that was cast away among the
Rocks and Shoals of the *Bahama* Islands about the year 1643. not only by
some *Spaniards* that were aboard her when she was lost, but also by obser-
vation of others that had been in search after her, but all miscarried in the
point: The Captain had almost certain Knowledge that he might discover
the place; and so like a good Subject acquainted His late Majesty first
with the design, proffering his Life and Fortunes at his Princes Service to
search after it. But whether the improbability of the Adventure being
lookt upon as a *Chimera*, or some other reason, the Captain was not counte-
nanced; The said Captain thereupon acquainted some Noble-Men and Per-
sons of Quality with his fix'd Resolution, and cogent Reasons to induce the
belief of that performance; they readily joyned issue with him, advan-
cing what Money the Captain judg'd necessary to Equip him to Sea, being
2400 *l.* they being Persons not to be imposed upon, (*viz.*) His Grace
the Duke of *Alb.* — the Right Honourable the Lord *F.* — Sir
James Hayes, Sir *John* Narborough, Mr. *Nicholson*, Mr. *Foxcroft*, and
Mr. *Smith*, becoming his Owners or Proprietors, himself having only a
Sixteenth

Sixteenth part, who having provided himself with all materials, and one Tender and Sloop, Sailed out of the Downs in the Ship *James* and *Mary* about the 12. of *September* last, and having touched at some places for refreshment, he arrived about the middle of *February* last among the *Bahama Islands*, Shoals and Rocks; and after some days search happily pitch'd upon, and found the direct place where the *Spanish Galion* in the year 1643. was cast away with great Riches Aboard, though the same was above 17 Leagues from any thing of Shoar, to the *Westward of Florida* in nine *Fathom Water*, where, having Moor'd his Ship at some distance, set his four *Divers* at work, though they were mightily impeded by the Tempestuousness of the Season, that they were forced to lie by a long space, having the prospect of Death every Minuit at the point of their Cable, for the Rocks were so numerous, that (like *Scilla* and *Caribdis*,) they were like to be split upon one, while they were endeavouring to avoid the other; Besides, they could not make use of their Engine, being a hollow Vessel evenly depressed almost to the bottom, retains the Air without filling with Water, whereby the Party diving, when almost spent his Breath, puts his head under the Vessel which replenishes him with Breath again; and in this dangerous posture they continued working above Six Weeks.

And that which is observable, not the least Plank or Hull of the said Ship appear'd; for the Ship being broak to pieces on the Rock, the parts were either driven away with the violence of the Waves, or consum'd by the Worms which in those Seas will Eat through the thickest Plank in some years time. And 'tis further remarkable, that the Silver had so long remain'd under Water, as to petrify a congeal'd Substance into White Coral-Trees growing thereon, some with mighty spreading Branches, even to a great height, which the Captain has Testimonials to shew, having presented his Grace the Duke with this Curiosity; and having taken up as much as they could well find, left the said *Bahama Island* the second of last *May*, and with some stress of Weather made sight of *Cilly Island* the third of *June* following, and is now Happily arriv'd in the River of *Thames* on this side *Graves end*, with such a Treasure as to the Honour as well as Profit of the Nation no Ship ever perform'd the like. His Grace the Duke of *Alb*— upon the receipt of this News, accompanied with Sir *James Hayes*, &c. went down the River, to bid the Captain Welcom; who coming on board, found all things so mightily to his Satisfaction, that his Grace Generously oblig'd every Man and Boy of the Ships Crew to Drink his Health; but left order that none go ashore till she is Unladen of her Cargo, being actually 26 Tons, and 700 *l.* weight of Silver, fifteen Tons thereof being Pieces of Eight, two Bars or Ingots of Gold 17 *l.* weight, six Brass Cannon of thirty hundred weight each, being as serviceable as at first, which amount in the whole to above 200000 *l.* besides all the Charges. She now rides on this side *Graves-end*, and is well Guarded, no persons being suffered to go aboard her, nor come ashore, without special Order. It is observable, that in this whole Voyage, the Captain hath lost neither Man nor Boy, although they were in so great hazard.

This Relation was taken from a Gentleman who was on Board the said Ship the whole Voyage.

F I N I S.